

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29197 / H0526

Currently when a person with a commercial driver's license (CDL) is convicted of certain offenses, federal code requires a lifetime disqualification of the individual. This means that these individuals can never again obtain a commercial driver's license.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has adopted new rules that allow jurisdictions the ability to reinstate commercial drivers with lifetime disqualification offenses, after ten years have elapsed. It requires states to have a rehabilitation program in order to permit jurisdictions the ability to allow these drivers to again obtain their commercial driving privileges after an initial ten-year period, but does not specify what the rehabilitation program must include. This proposal is for Idaho to implement a program that would include criteria such as a clean driving record for the past 3 years, completion of online defensive driving classes for driving safety, truck driver safety, and successful completion of knowledge and skills testing.

This proposal provides economic opportunity for commercial drivers who seek licensure after serving a ten-year qualification period and will help increase the number of CDL drivers as shortages persist.

FISCAL NOTE

The Idaho Department of Transportation does not anticipate any program cost increases other than the possibility of some minimal upfront programming. The Dept. would utilize existing staff time to review the eligibility requirements of those drivers who want to regain their commercial driving privileges. ~~The Dept. estimates that if this proposal passes there would be approximately 250 drivers who could take advantage of the opportunity, and about 100 drivers in each subsequent year.~~ As this program is just beginning in other states it is difficult to estimate the number of drivers who would take advantage of this provision. In 2020 the Dept. estimated that up to 100 could be eligible each year.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).